

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 OC-05 CCO-00 INR-07 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0021

INFO SECDEF

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CINCLANT

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AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL BELFAST

S E C R E T LONDON 05369

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MILI, ETEL, UK

SUBJECT: REALIGNMENT OF NAVAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM
(NTS)

REF: STATE 77246 (NOTAL)

1. WE RAISED SUBJECT OF REALIGNMENT OF NTS WITH ASSIST-
ANT HEAD OF FCO NORTH AMERICA DEPARTMENT, NEIL SMITH AND
U.S. DESK OFFICER, GRAHAM ARCHER, ON APRIL 8. PER
REFTEL WE STRESSED THAT THIS WAS INFORMAL ADVICE THAT
U.S. IS CONSIDERING PLAN TO REALIGN NTS AND THAT WE
WOULD SEEK HMG APPROVAL WHEN WE HAVE A DETAILED PROPOSAL.

2. INITIAL REACTION OF FCO OFFICIALS WAS THAT PLAN IS
UNDERSTANDABLE IN TERMS OF TECHNICAL PARAMETERS AND IN
CONTEXT OF REDUCTION OF SUPPORT MANPOWER IN EUROPE. THEY
COULD FORESEE, HOWEVER, THAT PLAN MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE AND SCOTTISH OFFICE. FORMER
WOULD BE TROUBLED BY FACT THAT IMPORTANT SOURCE OF EMPLO-
YMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND WOULD BE REMOVED WITH CONSEQUENCE-

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NT ECONOMIC PROBLEM FOR LONDONDERRY AREA. SCOTTISH

OFFICE MIGHT WELL BE TROUBLED BY ANY NOTICEABLE CONSTRUCTION AT THURSO OR EDZELL SUCH AS LARGE ANTENNAE THAT MIGHT "FURTHER DETRACT FROM THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE AREA". (COMMENT: ARCHER, WHO MADE ABOVE COMMENT, HAS BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBLE USN CONSTRUCTION AT HOLY LOCH AND HAS IN MIND THE STRONG POSITION TAKEN BY THE SCOTTISH OFFICE AGAINST ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD INJURE BEAUTY OF RURAL AREAS OF SCOTLAND.

3. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ASKED WERE (A) HOW MANY MORE PEOPLE WILL BE STATIONED IN SCOTLAND AND (B) WHAT WILL BE PHYSICAL NATURE OF CONSTRUCTION AT SCOTTISH SITE. EVEN THOUGH U.S. PLAN IS NOT COMPLETE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE COULD GIVE AN INTERIM REPLY TO ABOVE QUESTIONS.

RICHARDSON

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NNN

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